

one else to govern you ? I repeat that we do not intend to force any one upon you: but we will have no more to do with Napoleon."

Several Generals were then named; and after Reynier had explained the great difficulties which would oppose any such choice, Alexander interrupted him saying, "But, General, there is Bernadotte.¹ Has he not been voluntarily chosen Prince Royal of Sweden; may he not also be raised to the same rank in France ? He is your countryman; surely then you may choose him, since the Swedes took him, though a foreigner," General Eeynier, who was a man of firm character, started some objections, which I thought at the time well founded; and Alexander put an end to the conversation by saying, rather in a tone of dissatisfaction, " Well, General, the fate of arms will decide."

The campaign of France forced Napoleon to adopt a kind of operations quite new to him. He had been accustomed to attack ; but he was now obliged to stand on his defence, so that, instead of having to execute a previously conceived plan, as when, in the Cabinet of the Tuileries, he traced out to me the field of Marengo, he had now to determine his movements according to those of his numerous enemies. When the Emperor arrived at Chalons-sur-Marne the Prussian army was advancing by the road of Lorraine. He drove it back beyond St. Dizier. Meanwhile the Grand Austro-Bussian army passed the Seine and the Yonne at Montereau, and even sent forward a corps which advanced as far as Fontainebleau. Napoleon then made a movement to the right in order to drive back the troops which threatened to march on Paris, and by a curious

¹ Alexander said to the Baron de Vitrolles, on the 17th of March, 1814, at Troyes, " We have already carefully sought for what would suit France if Napoleon disappeared. Some time ago we thought of Bernadotte; his influence over the army, the favor in which he must be with the friends of the Revolution, had at one time fixed our views on him, but afterwards several motives have made us put him aside." (*Vitrolles*, tome 1. p. 119). Alexander did not state the reasons against Bernadotte. The speech must have been striking to Vitrolles (who had come to plead the cause of the Bourbons), who had when a boy been taught fencing by Bernadotte, then a sergeant of the regiment " Royal Marine."* It is due to Bernadotte that he when Marshal and Prince never forgot the kind way he had been received when sergeant by the family of Vitrolles, and it was to him that Vitrolles owed his removal from the list of *em gvmts*. (*Vitrolles's Introduction*, p. xlii.).